

Message Text

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PAGE 01 COLOMB 01212 050643Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 FRB-03
INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03
SP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 NSC-05 SS-15 STR-04
CEA-01 L-03 H-01 PA-01 PRS-01 AGRE-00 /084 W
-----050645Z 062879 /17

R 050510Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7068
INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ECON, PINT, CE

SUBJ: FOOD TRANSPORT SYSTEM UNDER STRAIN

REF: COLOMBO 1036

1. DURING APRIL 1 VISIT OF USDA/WESTERN WHEAT ASSOCIATES TEAM, CONVERSATIONS WITH FOOD COMMISSIONER P.M. HASSAN AND STATE FLOUR MILLING CORPORATION CHAIRMAN V.P. SILVA INDICATED TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM HAVING PROBLEMS IN HANDLING DISTRIBUTION OF INCREASED RICE RATION AND OTHER FOODSTUFFS (REFTEL).

2. SILVA, WHO WORKED IN FOOD COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE BEFORE TAKING OVER FLOUR MILLING CORP., SAID RAILWAY DEPARTMENT USED TO PROVIDE ABOUT 200 FREIGHT CARS ON PERMANENT BASIS FOR FOOD TRANSPORT AND WOULD ALSO MAKE UP SPECIAL TRAINS WHENEVER REQUIRED. IN PAST FEW MONTHS, HOWEVER, ONLY ABOUT 40 CARS HAVE BEEN PROVIDED DUE TO GENERAL DETERIORATION OF ROLLING STOCK AND SPECIAL TRAINS ARE NO LONGER AVAILABLE. CONSEQUENTLY, RAIL TRANSPORT FOR FOOD STUFFS LIMITED TO HIGH COUNTRY FOR WHICH 40 CARS ARE BARELY SUFFICIENT. REST OF ISLAND IS
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NOW SUPPLIED BY TRUCKS WHICH ARE BEING OPERATED ON 24-HOUR A DAY BASIS WITH DRIVER RELAYS, AND MAINTENANCE IS BECOMING A SERIOUS PROBLEM. ARMY HAS BEEN CALLED IN TO HELP AS INCREASED FLOW OF GOODS THREATEN TO SWAMP TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM.

3. AS VIRTUALLY ALL INCOMING SHIPMENTS ARRIVE THROUGH COLOMBO, PORT FACILITIES ARE OVERLOADED. FOR PAST WEEK, BET-

WEEN 10 AND 20 SHIPS HAVE BEEN STANDING OFF SHORE WAITING BERTH SPACE. DESPITE PORT BOTTLENECK, SILVA SAID INTERNAL DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM FALLING BEHIND IN MOVING GOODS OUT OF COLOMBO.

4. TO MAKE MATTERS WORSE, FOOD COMMISSIONER HAS PLANS TO BUILD UP REGIONAL FOOD STOCKS TO MAINTAIN ONE MONTH'S SUPPLY AT ELECTORATE LEVEL. THIS MOVE IN ANTICIPATION TRANSPORTATION STRIKES NEAR ELECTION TIME COULD DISRUPT FOOD SUPPLIES.
REED

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PORT CONGESTION, RICE, REPORTS, ROLLING STOCK, RATIONING
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 05-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977COLOMB01212
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Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
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Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770117-1075
Format: TEL
From: COLOMBO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770488/aaaacyps.tel
Line Count: 72
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 224b79aa-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 COLOMBO 1036
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2897459
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FOOD TRANSPORT SYSTEM UNDER STRAIN
TAGS: ECON, PINT, CE
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/224b79aa-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
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